Software Review of Community 2O2O™

HUD COMMUNITY PLANNING SOFTWARE
Version 2.0

Community 2020 Version 2.0 is the latest version of Community Planning Software from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The objective of the product is simple: offer affordable, easy-to-use software that will benefit not only housing and community development professionals, but average citizens as well. The software presents important information about local neighborhoods and communities on easy-to-understand maps. Notably, Community 2020 provides citizens with a tool to participate in efforts to shape the future of communities across America, and is part of HUD's efforts to empower local communities through 21st century technology. This initiative received the *Innovations in American Government Award* in 1996 from the Ford Foundation, administered by the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Community 2020 Version 2.0 was designed by HUD in partnership with Caliper Corporation of Newton, Massachusetts. It builds on the success of Version 1.0, which has received wide acceptance over the past year. Community 2020 provides ease of use, convenient data access, superior end-user documentation, and all the power of Caliper Corporation's Maptitude Geographic Information System for Windows. HUD and Caliper have designed Community 2020 to allow the user to quickly and easily:

- ✪ Create maps that display HUD program locations. 1990 Census data, demographic estimates and projections, and other data;
- ✪ Find HUD program activities in an area of interest;
- ✪ View details on activities funded by over 20 HUD programs;
- ✪ Work with HUD program data from one or more funding years, from 1992 to the present:
- ✪ Understand the impact of HUD program initiatives an neighborhoods and communities; and
- ✪ Add user projects and pinpoint their locations on a map.

Community 2020 is available in two versions: a regional edition and the Deluxe Edition. Each regional edition Program CD provides all the necessary geographic, demographic, and HUD program data for one of four regions of the U.S. (Eastern, Southern, Central, and Western). The Deluxe Edition provides national coverage by including the Data CDs for all four regions. Designed to run under Windows 3.1 or above, Community 2020 requires a 486 or Pentium computer with a minimum of 12MB of RAM, 16MB of free disk space, a CD-ROM drive, and a display monitor with Super VGA resolution (800 by 600 or higher).

User Interface

Community 2020 is easy to install and use. The installation program carefully guides the user through each step, providing several clear options, including the ability to move some or all the data from the Program CD to a hard disk. All software and all data sets for a single region can be installed from one CD. Once installed, the user interface provides specially developed tools for mapping and data access via menus, toolbars, toolboxes, dialog boxes, and forms. Users should have no problem picking up this product and making things happen very quickly. The specially-designed HUD toolbox and menu provide access to a series of functions, including the innovative HUD Map Library. The HUD Query Builder is a powerful way to find HUD program activities in a search area. A form for each HUD program lets the user browse the activity details and create maps to show activity locations.

The HUD Map Library

The HUD Map Library simplifies the task of creating descriptive maps to a simple series of mouse clicks: choose an area of interest, choose a map category, and select one or more maps. For some maps, you choose which year's data to use. Community 2020 responds by filling the screen with attractive maps that use colors, patterns, symbols, and charts to present the data. All maps are professionally designed to show clearly the subjects that you have chosen, using 1990 census data, demographic estimates and projections, and activity locations for over 20 HUD programs.

The HUD Map Library contains over 70 pre-programmed maps that can be displayed for any location across the U.S. The extent of the map display is defined by a marker, which is a location of a map that can be applied to other maps.

When starting the software for the first time, the user is prompted to define a neighborhood, city, or region of interest. By simply entering a street address, place name, county name, or state abbreviation, Community 2020 creates a series of default markers that reflect the user's preferences. Markers can include a neighborhood, city, county, state, and Congressional District. Markers can be redefined at any time. In addition, the HUE) Map Library lets the user add new map categories, and add customized maps to a map category.

All Community 2020 maps are interactive. Users can change the map scale (zoom in or zoom out), add text, label features, and add new map features. Similarly, users can query map features to display underlying data. The HUD toolbox includes an information tool that can be used to query symbols that represent the locations of HUD-funded activities. By selecting the tool and clicking on one of the HUD map symbols, Community 2020 displays well-designed forms that describe Metropolitan Community Development projects, State/Small Cities Community Development projects, Public Housing developments, and other HUD program activities.

The HUD Query Builder

HUD programs fund activities, and each activity can happen at one or more locations. The HUD Query Builder lets the user choose an area to search for HUD program activities. The query can specify the particular funding years, HUD programs, and activity types to find. When the query is applied, Community 2020 searches the HUD program data and lists the matching activities. Then the user can choose one or more activities and:

- ✪ *View details about the activities on a form*
- ✪ *Map the locations of the activities*
- ✪ *Print a report of the activities*
- ✪ *Export the locations of the activities to a geographic file and show as a layer in a map*

The Query Builder is a fast and effective way to learn about how HUD dollars are being spent, anywhere in the U.S. This new capability of Community 2020 is revolutionary in the way it makes a vast amount of government data easy to access by the user.

Forms

HUD program data are displayed in specially designed dialogue boxes called forms. The HUD Query Builder gives access to all of the HUD program data

using these forms. There is also direct access to CPD Entitlement, State/Small Cities, EZ/EC, and Public Housing data. For example, the user can enter a state abbreviation to receive either a list of all CPD Entitlement grantees or all of the Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) located in that state. Similarly, users can enter a CPD Entitlement grantee's name and Community 2020 will list all recipients with that name. Additional forms that describe funding recipients and their proposed projects or developments are displayed with a single mouse click All forms are well-designed, and it is easy to query, browse, print and map the HUD program data that are provided on the CD.

Users can move alternately between a form and a map, to show the locations of activities and their descriptions. With the Activity Info tool, the user chooses an activity on the map and Community 2020 displays information about it on a form. From an activity form, users can go to a map to see either the locations for all the activities chosen or specific locations for an individual activity.

User Projects

Community 2020 lets users create and map their own projects. Users can identify their community needs and then develop projects that they believe will best meet those needs. Community 2020 enhances the users' understanding of where HUD funds are being spent.

EZ/EC Locator

One convenient feature of Community 2020 is the EZ/EC Locator. This tool determines whether or not an address is in an Empowerment Zone or Enterprise Community, if it is, the EZ/EC Locator gives the user information about the EZ/EC, including whom to contact.

Presentations

Community 2020 makes it easy to use maps in various types of presentations, reports, and applications. The user can:

- ◉ *Print maps in hard copy using any Windows-compatible printer or plotter.*
- ◉ *Use standard Windows cut-and-paste techniques to insert maps into, documents, spreadsheets, and presentations*
- ◉ *Save maps to a bitmap or JPEG format for use on a web page, and*
- ◉ *Use page layout tools to combine maps, data, and images into a single powerful design.*

The software also has 36 own slide show capability, so the user can save a set of maps in bitmap format and organize the maps into a presentation.

Data and Documentation

Since Community 2020 is a special edition of Maptitude, it includes all the components of Maptitude, including two nationwide data CDs and the Maptitude Users Guide. Community 2020 adds one or more regional data CDs and the Community 2020 User's Guide. The regional data CDs provide all the geographic, demographic, and HUD program data that users will need to run the software from a single CD. Some regions have a supplemental Data CD with region-wide demographic data. A list of the HUD programs currently packaged with Community 2020 is shown in Table 1. Data are available for all states and territories. The Deluxe Edition includes the data CDs for all four regions.

The tract and block group geographic files have HUD data, plus 640 variables from the 1990 U.S. Census of Population and Housing, so an extensive demographic analysis of a community can be done. Demographic estimates for 1997 and projections for 2002 and 2007 are also included. Geographic data are packaged on the CD using Caliper Corporation's compact geographic file format. This file format supports efficient data storage and superior performance. Users can move some or all of the data sets from the CD to a local hard disk or network drive during installation, or they can use Maptitude functions later to copy files from the CD to a hard disk. Users can also create a cutout, which is a subset of the HUD program data for a particular geographic area and for chosen programs and funding years.

With all the power of Maptitude at their fingertips, users can also create their own files, translate existing digital data sets, build geographic data sets using address matching and other techniques, and use all these data sets to create and customize their own maps.

The Community 2020 User's Guide is a superb reference for using the special features of Community 2020. The Users Guide also does an excellent job directing users to relevant sections of the Maptitude User's Guide, so that they can expand their knowl-

edge and begin to create or customize map and data. There are extensive on-line, context-sensitive help files for both the special capabilities of Community 2020 and the regular capabilities of Maptitude. The on-line help has several sections not in the printed documentation, for explaining the HUD programs, activity types, data files and maps in the HUD Map Library.

Value

Community 2020 offers an amazing value. A regional edition of Community 2020 is only $249, and the Deluxe Edition with data for the whole country is only $299. Created through a unique partnership between government and private industry, Community 2020 is a product that truly reflects the needs of its users. Together, the price, capabilities, and ease of use make this product an excellent value for anyone who wants to explore their community, region, or beyond.

Table 1: HUD Programs Currently Packaged with Community 2020™ v. 2.0 Software

Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD)
  CPD Entitlement Programs
    ✓ Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program
    ✓ **HOME:** The Home Investment Partnerships Program
    ✓ Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG)
    ✓ Housing Opportunities forPersons with AIDS (HOPWA) Program
  ⊞ State/Small Cities Program
  ⊞ SNAPS (Homeless programs)
  ⊞ Historically Black College and Universities (HBCU)
  ⊞ Section 108/Economic Development Initiative (EDI)
  ⊞ Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Competitive
  ⊞ Youthbuild
  ⊞ Empowerment Zones/Enterprise Communities (EZ/EC)
  ⊞ Home Ownership Zones
  Office of Public and Indian Housing
  • Public Housing
  • Campus of Learners
  • HOPE VI
  Office of Housing
  • Multi-Family Housing
  • Neighborhood Networks
  • Single-Family Title 1
  • Single-Family Title II
  • Hospital Mortgage Insurance
  • Housing Counseling
Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO)
  •Fair Housing Initiative Program (FHIP)
  •Fair Housing Assistance Program (FHAP)
Governmenet National Mortgage Association (GNMA/Ginnie Mae)\
  • Targeted Lending Initiative
  Office of the Secretary
  • Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention
Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R)
  • Community Outreach Partnership Centers (COPC)